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MISSIONARIES and READING



A Condensation of a *REPORT* to THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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PREFACE

The missionary must depend upon reading for much of his inspiration. Shut off, as he frequently is, from opportunities to discuss affairs with friends and critics, to attend conferences and concerts, enjoy the drama, hear good sermons, and worship in beautiful churches, he is dependent upon *reading* to understand much of what is best in the life of his generation. The attention of Mission Boards has again been directed to this subject. We were assigned to study the reading of missionaries, and to present a report upon "Channeling Literature to Missionaries on the Field." Material was gathered from nearly six hundred persons, through questionnaires and interviews with representative missionaries, Board secretaries, and other prominent leaders, and information sought from seminaries, universities, libraries, institutes, Foundations, Mission Boards, and bookstores. The full report was presented in the spring of 1946. In order that all those who contributed to this study might know what some of their colleagues think on the subject of *Missionaries and Reading*, the following abbreviated form of the report has been prepared.

I.

The Reading Needs of Missionaries

1. A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR OWN FAITH:

It would seem a truism that a missionary should know Christianity, his own religion, in a masterly way. The apostle Paul is an excellent, classic example. Disciple,

scholar, saint, blazing evangelist, he could do without his books for a time, but remembered them and sent for them.

2. A GROWING ECUMENIC AWARENESS:

The missionary is not a distant, isolated cell, but an organic part of the whole Church. New knowledge, power, and responsibility come from this world fellowship, and constitute the true catholicity of the Church. The missionaries and the members of younger churches need to know more about the whole Christian Movement. When the Church in America studies Africa or India during an entire year, a similar study might well be encouraged by Christian leaders in their respective fields. The Study Books could be sent from America in time to have them translated, so that throughout the whole Christian world, there could be this common approach of study and prayer, leading to real fellowship. In many places, the books sent out would not

need to be translated as there would be groups of English speaking nationals who might join the missionaries.

It is essential that Church History be understood, including present day differing schools of thought, even though there be heresies among them. There should be no censorship in this realm of information. The ablest and commonly accepted spokesmen of these schools should present what they believe. Of all men, it is the Christian who has the passport to freedom. In this way, many misunderstandings will be removed. A true knowledge of discrepancies, gained from reliable sources, is far better than perverted interpretations, when all sides are not frankly made known.

3. AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELIGION OF THE PEOPLE THE MISSIONARY SEEKS TO SERVE:

It would seem obvious that one should know a good deal about the religions of the people to whom one goes. There is an entire Philosophy of Missions in the simple instruction of Jesus to his disciples to go first to them that are worthy, namely to those who aspire after the spiritual. A sympathetic understanding of what Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, and Islam mean to the devout believer is essential, not only in all fairness, but also as a means of helping them come to know and love Christ. The great enemies of true religion today are really not the ethnic faiths, in which the devotee often does have yearnings for the spiritual. The real enemies are hardness of heart, modern secularism, and unconcern for all religion. One may well be impressed seeing the Moslem turn his face toward Mecca five times daily to pray to the one God. Where a crude animism prevails, there may be little to admire. But though there be little to admire, there remains much to learn. Just what religion means to the people should be understood. Confucianism, though not strictly a religion, still is a faith, a faith indeed in the ethical steadfastness of society and the eternal order. Why should one doubt that God has spoken measurably in

their consciences? If it was not God, who was it? Confucianists share with the Jews a deep faith in righteousness, which makes Confucianism congenial soil for the Gospel of Christ.

At the Madras Conference, one of China's outstanding Protestant theologians read a paper on Revelation. In it he recognized the uniqueness and completeness of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, but he claimed that God, the righteous Father, has also let some precious crumbs fall from His bountiful table, in His dealing with the Chinese people in the past five thousand years, as well as with other races. To this Christian Chinese, it seemed incredible that God's revelation could be arbitrary, through the Jews alone. To the Chinese, at least, that seems like attributing race prejudice to the Eternal.

Those who wish to understand other religions, should read standard works on them. In addition, they should try to make their own observations, which should not be shallow, but honest and thorough. However, the missionary who shows deplorable ignorance and unfairness in his approach to real devotees, will not commend himself as an apostle of the Truth to them.

4. KNOWLEDGE OF PRESENT DAY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE:

How varied that life is for the missionary in almost all lands! From peasant to philosopher and scholar, one must prepare to meet them all, for sooner or later, one does meet them. Dr. Francis Wei, one of China's Christian scholars, remarked that not infrequently the

missionary, though eager to do his best, is not familiar with Chinese mentality, social and economic background, and remains in a semi-foreign world of misunderstanding.

5. RIGHT ATTITUDES:

How then shall the approach be made by the young missionary who wishes to gain knowledge not only through books but also through more direct contact? Such approach can be made successfully only through right attitudes, which preclude pride, contempt, patronage, and hasty appraisal. Instead of the foregoing, there must be respect for persons, and reverence toward all who grope after the Unknown.

In this, books play a vital part. The reverent Christian spirit and the right attitude must be unceasingly nurtured by books, which enable one to see through more and sharper eyes than one's own. It is profoundly true that the missionary hasn't time for a good book. He has time only for *the best book*, on every subject of concern to him. To be such an extrovert, that one takes pride in one's intellectual isolation, is to build up a conceit about one's own sufficiency which is contemptible. What is not true in America and Europe is not true in Africa and Asia. The big problem of the missionary is not to find time, which God has provided abundantly, but to exercise judgment in the use of it.

There is such a thing as burying one's talent in "being too busy".

The geographical environment of the missionary has much to do with his reading habits. It may vary from a university campus or metropolitan center, where there are scores of well-informed associates, to extreme isolation, where there are few if any educated persons of congenial taste and similar attainments. In the same way, the personal background of the missionaries varies widely. A man may come from a family where books were part of the daily diet, or from one where practical affairs left little time for the formation of regular habits of study and reflection. Answers to our questionnaire showed that the missionaries, though possibly about average in their reading of periodicals, considered that about 80% of the group fell short in the amount of time given to reading, apart from language study and preparation for classes. To the remaining 20% who read widely, the rest of the missionary body are deeply indebted though not everyone may be aware of this.

6. OBSERVATIONS OF TRAVELERS INDICATE LACK OF BOOKS:

A noted educational leader is reported to have said at one of the great missionary conferences, "After seeing the men in India, I could just about tell the year they had graduated from Oxford or Cambridge." A widely traveled Board secretary remarked that he had noticed that a good many Japanese pastors had more scholarly and up-to-date libraries than many missionaries. A college president, visiting the Far East was troubled at the meagre libraries of many missionaries. A distinguished preacher and writer, deeply interested in

this subject, said that it literally made him sick to find how impoverished the minds of many of the missionaries were, who for long periods had been deprived of the stimulus of books and periodicals. A secretary of one of the Boards referred to the inadequate interpretation of Christ which many pastors were giving because they were not growing. They were scantily informed; the rich experience of others was unknown to them. This problem presents a real challenge to thoughtful missionaries.

7. THE EVANGELISTIC MISSIONARY IS OFTEN ISOLATED:

The country evangelist, referred to sometimes as the backbone of the missionary enterprise, is restricted in facilities for mental refreshment and growth. Because of his manner of life, alternating between itineration and crowded periods preparing for it, he is seldom

associated with his peers or superiors, western or national, and should receive special consideration. The intellectual aloofness is therefore great. One of these, a person of scholarly background and taste, described how he often had little with him beside "the Bible and

an old Saturday Evening Post". Such a missionary is exposed to two dangers as he unconsciously withdraws from the stimulus of other thinkers; he may be inclined to fall back on emotionalism in preaching or else content himself with the repetition of formal or doc-

trinal presentation, being removed from any living issues. It is encouraging however, to find that some of the most noteworthy examples of persons well read and alive to the issues of their day were country itinerating missionaries.

8. NEED TO OVERCOME LETHARGY:

There are undoubtedly tendencies toward mental and spiritual lethargy in missionary life. One Executive Secretary in a large mission field writes; "I think there is a real lack of growth in professional and spiritual life throughout a large part of our mission field, and provision should be made to remedy this need." We quote from another also; "We are full of energy when we first get out. Then frequently we peter out and don't recover." It would seem that some never had

great intellectual hunger and curiosity; in others, these have become atrophied. Some have habituated themselves to live on their past. However fine the life may be, certain tap-roots seem to dry up. There may even be the temptation to reflect that one may make up in spirituality what is definitely lacking in vigorous thought. But the intellectual and the spiritual are not in different compartments. God has created man with a mind, one of the greatest talents.

9. QUESTIONNAIRE REVEALS NARROWNESS OF RANGE IN READING AND PAUCITY OF BOOKS:

Most of the books and periodicals read were of a devotional nature. It is impossible here to list the various books read. Some of the favorite authors were C. E. Andrews, G. A. Buttrick, Charles Erdman, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Stanley Jones, Rufus Jones, J. Campbell Morgan, John R. Mott, C. F. Myers, O. J. Oldham, George Adam Smith, Robert E. Speer, L. Weatherhead. A number referred to the classics as helpful.

The total range of periodicals was wide, but with the exception of the fifteen given below, none were read by more than three or four persons. The fifteen given below are in the order of their popularity:

1. Reader's Digest
2. Time
3. Christian Century
4. The National Geographic
5. The Atlantic Monthly
6. Harper's
7. Life
8. New York Times Book Review
9. News Week
10. Good Housekeeping
11. Woman's Home Companion
12. The Saturday Evening Post
13. Omnibook
14. The New Republic
15. The New Yorker

The number of periodicals along the line of specialization was also considerable. Many of these were read by very few persons. The fifteen most widely read are given in the order of their preference:

1. International Review of Missions
2. Christian Herald
3. Theology Today
4. Outreach
5. Journal of American Medical Association
6. Presbyterian
7. Sunday School Times
8. Science News Weekly
9. Nursing
10. International Journal of Religious Education
11. Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics
12. Musical Quarterly
13. Far Eastern Review
14. Westminster Bookman
15. Christendom

(This order is somewhat deceptive as to preference as the persons in the different professions were unequal in number.)

The following observations may be made regarding the use of periodicals:

1. The Digest variety of magazine is widely read.
2. Physicians and teachers of science and other subjects feel the need of professional journals the most.
3. Fewer than 10% read the most ecumenic periodical, the *International Review of Missions*.
4. Presbyterian Church magazines are poorly patronized. A thoroughly representative Church paper is needed.
5. *The Christian Century*, though heartily disliked by some, is still read by them, and is by far the most widely read religious weekly.

6. *Christendom*, representing the ecumenic Christian movement, and *Theology Today*, are meeting a real need.
7. Several missionaries stress the need of reading other religious journals than those of their own church or country.
8. Few read humorous papers like *Punch* or the *New Yorker*.

There is the widest possible range of difference among missionaries as to their use of professional

periodicals. One writes, "I read such magazines as *The Expository Times*, *The Evangelical Quarterly*, *The Christian Century and Pulpit*, *The British Weekly*, *The Biblical Archeologist*, and *Bulletin of American Schools of Oriental Research*, *Religious Digest*, *Moody Monthly*, *The Presbyterian*, and *Theology Today*." At the other end of the line, a more extrovert type puts down his list "Revelation and some Agricultural Bulletins."

10. WHY MISSIONARIES DO NOT READ MORE:

In the questionnaire, they were asked to check what they considered as hindering them from study and reading in English (this had no reference to language study as such).

A. Insufficient allotment of time in daily schedule for reading and study. Approximately 65%.

B. Lack of money to buy books and periodicals. Approximately 45%.

C. Lack of appreciation of the fact that missionaries need to study the culture of their adopted country, and to keep up with world trends of thought. Approximately 30%.

D. Unavailability of literature of the type needed. Approximately 40%.

E. Lack of knowledge of what to read. Approximately 40%.

F. Inertia. Approximately 30%.

The greatest hindrance is the lack of time, "being swamped with work." On the Mission Field, being busy is an alibi for many short-comings. It is often thought

of in a rather complacent fashion, as a species of missionary virtue. It is the "doing three men's work" complex. Not infrequently, older missionaries lead younger ones astray in this matter by their own example. Men and women can do the day's work, and do it well, without being under the feverish pressure for which pride and poor judgment are almost invariably to blame. As Matthew Arnold said, "The task's too big for haste."

A good many feel that lack of funds keeps them from securing books and periodicals which would be helpful. Most of them, especially the younger, do not have private funds. The situation is further complicated by having children, who lean rather heavily on any margin which otherwise might be available for books. Some are convinced that they must have books and read them. There are also those who believe that if a person really wishes to read, stringency in funds cannot hinder him.

11. BOOKS LOST IN THE RECENT WAR:

About 40% of the missionaries have lost some or all of their books. This loss is faced heroically. It has a different significance to different persons. One observes that after all there is only one indispensable book. A few really good books can take the place of many that had little value. There was irreparable loss, where through the decades, source material was gathered and

wantonly destroyed. Such loss is grievous, and all the scholar can do is to begin again as so many great souls have done. Those who love books and drank deep from them will miss their loss sorely, lingering in great memories. Those who read little will miss their books little. This is a very sad reflection regarding both groups.

12. NEEDS OF MISSIONARY CHILDREN: (Children's Books)

Good books for children are a necessity in the foreign missionary's home. It is more important to have a fairly complete selection for the children than for the adults to have a large library, because the children need to get through books, so much of the information

that American children get through their environment and through being a part of the juvenile social life of America. They need, too, to learn the delight of exploring books, and of entertaining themselves with reading, when they are lonely and shut off from companion-

ship with others of their own age. The selection of books can best be made if it is begun on a furlough. It should be systematically increased by additions suggested by someone who knows the child and the family and what books other children in America have found good. It should not be all fiction or all religion or all education. It should give the child a balanced and comprehensive idea of his great heritage in the world of books.

For little children, there will need to be picture books. Some of the best of these reveal an attitude of friendliness and of simple enjoyment in good things, that the wee beginner will be sure to appreciate. It is quite important to begin right, for the first books are the ones that are memorized, and gazed upon, until they usually are completely worn out. From picture books with lovely, well-blended colors, the child will progress to simple stories and songs, until he begins to choose his own books, and to borrow, and then to read everything in the house, in the community and much of what is in the libraries available to him.

Every nursery should have its own bookcase, where children can keep their own books, and where they can have a comfortable place, and a good light to read and to be read to. Children can not learn too soon to take care of books properly, and to treat them not as playthings but as tools. *THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE* is excellent as a kind of encyclopedia. It affords endless entertainment, and has distinct educational value. It is good to take, if possible, a periodical or two for children. Arthur Mee's *CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER* is a good one for this purpose. Children like to get mail, and look forward to the coming of their own magazine each month.

To have books of recognized worth about, is one of the ways to make children appreciate their home. If the children in a home read first what is of real value, they will have a standard by which to measure the materials they pick up later. Books reproducing pictures in famous galleries, or the works of great artists, or those giving photographs of the world's most beautiful cities and buildings, are pleasant to have on one's drawing room table; also a book or two of poetry, and some new book dealing with the culture of the country in which one is residing. Children take a just pride in the fact that their parents know about new books and can discuss them with others. In order to interest children, it will be necessary for the parents to widen the field of their own specialty. Theological books and mathematical books, for example, can have but little sharing value in a family of children.

There often are children in a family, who do not seem interested in books. If the parents read aloud to them, however, the children may get a great deal of enjoyment out of the really delightful stories they hear. Parents should not deprive themselves the joy of reading *LORNA DOONE*, *IVANHOE* (or other Walter Scott novels), *TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST*, or *PICKWICK PAPERS* and certain of the exciting passages in the autobiography of John G. Paton, to their children. It is more possible, oftentimes in the Mission community, to enjoy as a family, great books, than it is to do so in a small, urban apartment. The slower tempo of the Mission Lands and the isolation favor rather than hinder, what the bustle of American life makes difficult. It is worth what time it takes, to introduce one's children properly to the world of books.

13. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH TRENDS OF WORLD THOUGHT:

Keeping in touch with the trends of world thought depends largely upon the missionaries themselves. There is nothing that the Board or any other agency can do, to produce in the missionary that enviable quality of alert, consecrated intelligence, so much desired. The intelligence is there, the consecration is there, but these two qualities are often exclusively employed in administrative tasks; and the exploratory, adventuresome, inquiring alertness frequently wastes away. Only by constant study, consultation with others, and sufficient time for creative thinking, can the individual relate the information he receives to the whole scheme of things. The disquieting, unpleasant, conflicting issues must not be relegated to the pigeon hole

in the brain, labeled "False and Not-Worth-Considering" until they have been scrutinized for real fact. In the effort to make a good case for things in which we heartily and quite rightly place our faith, we are sometimes guilty of giving too little attention to what does not appeal to us. Discussion between persons holding quite different views is often helpful in bringing out the truth in a problem. This is the essence of the success of the Town Meeting idea which has proved so valuable and stimulating in American thought during recent years. It is the method St. Peter must have thought valuable when he advised the early Christians to be sure that they were provided with a reason for the faith that was in them. But to study and discussion,

there must be added thought. What is heard, argued, and pondered, must be brought up in the mind to measure itself in the light of what experience has shown to be as near Truth as we can penetrate.

The process of comprehension is perpetually renewed by foraging for fresh facts, bringing them into the camp for inspection and criticism, then storing what is relevant (to the good of all) for the future. Only as this repeats itself can the individuals be considered to be a part of the growing human family. The process of degeneration begins when any one of these vital elements is neglected. This may seem abstract but it is relevant in the matter of extending spiritual influence. There can be blind obedience to a closed set of tenets, but in a free society the deeper devotion comes from loyalty to Eternal Integrity as it is revealed step by step. People today need to look courageously into the future. Even the most humble follower of Christ, if conscientious, is challenged to try to know His mind,—to understand the things that are spiritually discerned.

In the era just beginning, we have an unprecedented opportunity to influence the thought life of Asia and Africa, just to speak of two vast areas of human habitation. As we are faithful in presenting the Truth as we know it in Christ, shall come the results in awakening millions of persons to a spiritual view of life. We cannot influence people in this post-war world with arguments taken from what our mothers taught us, or what we learned in Sunday school. If our faith has been nurtured from these sacred sources, it is a much more virile force now than what was present in us years ago; and should be as much stronger, through

years of walking with God, as the physical strength of the full grown adult is greater than that of the little child. What made the "Faith of our Fathers" such a truly glorious thing, was that it was *theirs* and not their *fathers'* Religion. If it is to have any vital influence on secular life, it must be a growing, vital force. It must be the "River of Living Water" of which our Master spoke.

Some of the most scathing rebukes to be found in the Bible, refer to persons who failed to feed the flock entrusted to their care. In order to feed a flock, it is necessary to know what individuals need, and to get them willing to eat it, after it becomes available. This is not as easy as some persons think. Passages like "I thank Thee Father, that Thou hast hidden these things from the wise and the prudent and revealed them unto babes," or "Take not thought, what ye shall answer in that day" were not intended to let the preacher off easily without the necessity of preparing the message for his hearers. God's word is the same, yesterday, to-day, and forever, but the preacher must know Philistia, Jerusalem, and Damascus, if he is to get the inhabitants thereof to sit up and take notice as the people did when Amos spoke his fiery words. This quality of awareness was evident in Jesus' remarks, when his audience whispered "How knoweth this man letters having never learned?" Jesus, as we are specifically told "Knew what was in man."

If the channeling of literature is not to be hazardous, it is important that the basic, intellectual and moral needs of the missionaries be understood.

Why Missionaries Need to Read More

A. THE POSITION OF THE MISSIONARY IN THE WORLD CHURCH REQUIRES THIS:

He is a world citizen. The concept of one world lays certain responsibilities upon him, which were less obligatory in past decades. He must represent the Christian Church, understanding better the land from which he comes, and the country to which he goes.

Furthermore, the *missionary should be kept mentally and spiritually fit.* He himself is the biggest asset in the missionary enterprise. Buildings run down unless constantly repaired. No one questions this. The missionary requires wise, intelligent, and unremitting care far more than the physical plant. From this study

it appears that too many of them have not kept a proper balance in that they have allowed their activities to interfere with their own growth. Professional people in this country would not dare to do this. The major fault has been that the importance of books and periodicals has been ignored. This has been due primarily not to indifference but to a relentless pressure of work, which has led many to the conclusion that they have no time for the luxurious irrelevancy of study.

B. READING AND STUDY ARE ESSENTIAL IN DEVELOPING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

The discovery of potential leaders and a determination to nurture and train them adequately, is not so common among missionaries as one might imagine, though it is essential to real advance in this great world enterprise. This question was asked; "Is there any danger, especially in certain areas of Asia, that the national colleagues of the missionary and others to whom he ministers, are more sensitive to intellectual and spiritual emphasis than the missionary himself; and therefore find uninspiring leadership in him?" The fact that some persons answered in the affirmative—should give Presbyterians pause. Our missionaries are not less well educated, their facilities are good, and in number, they are not fewer than others. One wonders why in some countries, they have not developed more outstanding Christian leaders. If this observation is untrue, it can be easily dismissed; if it is true, it demands the most searching study.

In America, Presbyterians have stressed as much as any other group, the necessity of having ministers highly educated after careful selection. Why has that ideal not been more potent abroad? One critic thought that the educational standards of the missionaries themselves have nothing to do with this. He asked whether Presbyterians have stressed unduly doctrine rather than life itself. Whatever may be said about the comparative success of the Presbyterian group in this respect, the fact remains that none of the groups can be proud of their record, and should be much concerned about it. After generations of missionary endeavor, a meager Christian national leadership confronts the Church. It is encouraging to note that the Korea Committee, appointed by the United States Government to visit this country, was composed entirely of Christians. Dr. Fosdick has had as a rule in

his preparation of sermons, to find out all he could before he wrote his sermon, and has gone on doing this. So his creative mind has had a vast amount of material on which to draw. The missionary who knows the great Masters and also is somewhat aware of present day thought will be in a better position to satisfy the hunger of the minds of others. The spirit needs quickening constantly, but who can separate the mind from the spirit? To do this is to belittle its function in the spiritual life.

Every facility should be given nationals to fit themselves for increasingly larger responsibility. The missionary can share his own books with them, or see to it that suitable books are available. Pastors, doctors, nurses, teachers, all have a rare opportunity to discover promising individuals, and help them in their nurture and training. Many missionaries would not hesitate to say that the best thing they have ever done was to find and help train a few real leaders.

After spending a year in Teachers' College, the late Rev. Edward H. Clayton was so enthusiastic about his experience with books that he asked his Board secretary to give him \$300 for books on education to take back with him. The books were placed in the high-school in China where he was principal. He explained to his teachers that a great variety of books were now available and encouraged them to read, giving definite directions to each teacher. The result was that after a few years, five of the seven teachers were called to other schools, to assume larger responsibilities. From being a dean, a librarian, an extra-curriculum advisor, an athletic director, they became principals. Later, two of these men got their Ph.D. degrees at Pennsylvania University. To fail to build up indigenous leadership is unpardonable.

III.

What Can Be Done to Meet the Reading Needs of Missionaries

A. WHAT THE BOARD CAN DO:

1. ESTABLISH READING CONSULTATION SERVICE:

The greatest contribution that the Board could make, would be the establishment of an efficient READING CONSULTATION SERVICE for missionaries, under a competent secretary. The secretary would need to be a person with literary taste, wide knowledge, and a thorough acquaintance with the needs of mission-

aries. Under his guidance, there would be suggestions for those welcoming such assistance. It is a specialized task that Board secretaries, with their heavy administrative responsibilities, should not be called upon to undertake. A fuller presentation of this subject is to be found in the Report pp. 56-60.

2. HELP IN ESTABLISHING LIBRARIES:

In some areas, where there are no libraries of any kind suitable to supply the need for good, new books, the Board might find it advantageous to help groups interested in establishing libraries to which missionaries and national leaders could have ready access. For the success of such a project an alert librarian is essential. Such a person would not necessarily have to have professional training in library work, but would need

to know and love books and be able to keep them circulating. (About fifty years ago, a group prepared "Circulating Gospel Extension Libraries" for colleges, seminaries and missionaries on the Fields. A 1900 catalogue gives a picture of the cleverly contrived book-cases, and lists of the books included, together with a most impressive number of endorsements by prominent Christian leaders.)

3. A NON-TRANSFERABLE BOOK ALLOWANCE FOR SOME MISSIONARIES:

Professional journals are expensive. Doctors and nurses could subscribe to little else, were they to order the ones they should have for their work. Few Mission schools or hospitals are financially able to get American and British periodicals and books. It would be to the advantage of both the missionary and the Board,

if in certain cases, where the individual has already proved that he is reading and profiting thereby, the Board agree to underwrite the cost of U.S. \$50. worth. To offer this as a bait for those who have not been reading, would be less wise.

4. ATTENTION TO THE READING OF MISSIONARIES:

It might be well for the Board through the Reading Consultation Service for missionaries, or through the Foreign secretaries, to pay more attention to the reading of missionaries. Some need suggestions in their choice of reading matter. If a person reads only religious books, and only those of a theological or devotional nature, the question would naturally arise, would it not be good for that individual to broaden the scope of his reading? One's mental diet may be unbalanced, lacking certain vital elements. There is some advantage in having a bishop or superior make suggestions to the individual teacher, doctor, nurse or preacher about reading habits! It would bring about needed

improvement to have it understood by all missionaries that the Board, to which they are responsible, expects of them a reasonably high standard in the range, amount, and quality of reading every year. Missionary candidates should have the most careful supervision of their reading while they are preparing. A former missionary doctor, when asked whether doctors needed to read more replied, "How can incompetence show compassion?" That brief answer bears close scrutiny. One does not read simply for diversion or relaxation, legitimate as those are; but one is driven to books as one stoops down to a stream to drink, in order to slake one's thirst.

B. WHAT MISSIONARIES THEMSELVES CAN DO:

1. MISSIONARIES SHOULD KEEP ABREAST OF THE BEST THINKING OF NATIONALS:

They simply must keep ahead of them, at least in regard to western thought. Never before has it been so necessary to read discriminatingly and widely and to cogitate. One cannot completely prepare in America for a lifetime service abroad. There needs to be the habit of definite study. One has no leadership if one's power of appeal deteriorates. The missionary should not only have a reasonable acquaintance with the best standard books in his specialty, but also be able to give from time to time, a BOOK REVIEW of special interest to the nationals with whom he is associated. Many persons, especially in Asia, have their own books and are alert. The missionary who does not master a thought provoking book occasionally, does not need to advertise the fact: it is well known by his associates, both foreign and national.

Cross fertilization results when there is a real interchange of thought. Knowing what the real thinkers and leaders of other cultures have in their minds cannot but be informing and stimulating. European and American theology need very much contributions from the experience of Christ known to Asia and Africa. One aspect of this, is religious art, to which Dr. D. J. Fleming has drawn respectful attention. The renaissance of Christian Art, especially under the Roman Catholics in China, is bound to reveal something new both to nationals and agencies abroad. The missionary on the field should be sufficiently in touch both with the local need and the source of supply, in order to serve acceptably in this intermediary relationship. He may be instrumental in recommending much that is needed in the life of the growing Church.

2. BUDGETING TIME IS ESSENTIAL:

Time is one of the precious assets of man. It should be budgeted. Everyone undoubtedly has time, the only question being what one will do with it. A sensible procedure would be to set aside a certain amount of

time each day for reading and thinking. There is no need to apologize for observing The Morning Watch. Surely the missionary can find time for study and meditation if he wills to do so.

3. STUDIOUS HABITS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED:

There can be only admiration for one who sets apart a reasonable amount of time each day for study and quiet thought. At such times, one would hardly read Digests which are the passion of the day, and have value but not for hard study. Very few persons now have long stretches of uninterrupted time for reading. *It would be well to keep three or four books along different lines, and requiring a varying degree of concentration, close at hand.* One should not be afraid of a book because it requires close attention. The result of reading some books should be to enable one

to think more clearly on problems. Without creative thinking, reading may become an indulgence with little benefit to the reader or anyone else. A record of one's reading is invaluable to the student.

Thus each one can make a contribution. In this, one should take pride rather than be contented as a parasite. For a young missionary not to hold to a high ideal in this respect, allowing himself to be dragged down by the mediocrity of others, is to fail to make the contribution essential to a rich community life on the foreign field.

4. MULTIPLY HELPFUL CONTACTS:

Correspondence with professors or other leaders at home has proved a valuable means of keeping some of the outstanding missionaries on the field acquainted with the newest trends in their specialty. Membership in learned societies, where it is necessary to prepare a paper, is an excellent spur to personal improvement. All missionaries should know as much as possible

about what leaders in their field of specialization are thinking and doing. One's program and work need to be reviewed constantly, in the light of larger and clearer vision. The missionary should not be reticent about making helpful contacts. His calling gives him a certain dignity, and he should try to meet persons who are outstanding in his community.

5. BOOK CLUBS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS:

The success of Book Clubs (more fully discussed in the Report) depends upon the prompt passing on of books, in accordance with the rule adopted. An added value is the discussion with others who have read the same book. The presence of some nationals in every

Book Club is earnestly recommended. The more diversified the membership of the Reading Club, the more broadening the effect will be. The Weekly Prayer Meeting and other suitable occasions might well introduce this feature at times. Report pp 32, 33.

6. LEARNING ABOUT NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

The Audio-Visual is an instance of a new field that it is necessary to understand. It is revolutionizing the

educational method. This relatively new field must be explored.

7. COMMITTEES ON THE GUIDANCE OF NEW MISSIONARIES:

Some inquiries about the reading habits of young missionaries might well be added to the friendly over-

sight traditionally provided by the members of such committees.

8. AVOID SECTARIANISM:

One's religious reading should never be confined to one's own denomination.

9. BOOK DISPLAYS:

A collection of books, though small, attracts attention. There might be such displays at religious meetings i.e. Presbytery, Synod, Conferences, Resorts; also

where people gather frequently, in homes and churches.

10. HOBBIES:

These have recreational, intellectual, and practical values, and are to be recommended to every missionary. There are many from which to choose, such as collecting stamps, coins, porcelain, geological specimens, utensils; cartography, hunting, bee culture, dairying and animal husbandry, photography, the fields of flora and fauna, mechanical crafts, study of

temples, architecture, customs, religions, etc. It is wise to keep up the hobby one had before going abroad. If one has no hobby, the one that appeals most can be chosen. There are expert authorities and publications on many of these and it will be valuable to keep in touch with them.

11. POSSIBILITIES IN THE WAY OF LIBRARIES:

Personal Libraries are often small and inadequate to begin with. Only a good library holds one's attention. Difficult questions arise but are not thought through, but put to one side. This is not satisfying. Intellectual slovenliness soon cripples one. If a colleague stimulates such a person, he may seek for some solution, else he will rest on his oars and drift. A personal library is a basic necessity. Its books, which

are dear to their owner, are right at hand. Even to look at them gives a measure of satisfaction and can be an inspiration. A personal collection can be increased as the need arises. Some of the old books will mean more than the new ones, but wise men do not live on their past. It is a good practice to eliminate valueless books periodically, to make room for what is of more lasting importance. In such a library, there will be a place

for magazines also. There will be Church papers, pictorial publications like the National Geographic Magazine, scholarly and more popular presentations of various aspects of the world picture, religious and secular, serious and humorous; representative material carefully chosen to refresh and strengthen, stimulate and challenge one constantly. As one would not miss a meal of food, so one will not fail to renew one's strength and spirit here daily, even if it be but for a brief moment.

Station Libraries: The old fashioned type used to be made up of the haphazard legacies of departed missionaries, the books of missionary technique sent out from the Board through long years; old text books on the study of language and science; outdated encyclopedias, and sometimes, duplicated copies of previous editions of the Hymnal! The shelves used to be dusted from time to time, as persons were appointed librarian, but few individuals ever read the books. A good Station library should have positively no rubbish in it. It should contain such books and journals as are relevant to the needs of the whole group. One could wish that most of the old Station Libraries had been taken during the war, instead of the personal libraries.

Contents Of An Effective Area (Formerly "Station") Library:

1. Tool Books For Reference
Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Atlases
2. Religious Books
3. Books For General Reading
Information, Culture
4. Books For Recreational Reading
Biography, Fiction, Travel, Hobbies, Humor
5. Children's Books
6. Periodicals
Professional and Otherwise

It should be noted that if some of these more expensive books in the categories listed above, are in private libraries and may be freely consulted by others, there will be no need of purchasing them for the Area Library. All missionaries, however, should have access to these few tools. This would be a growing library, representative, and, if properly advertised and conducted, used by many. The value of such a library, would depend almost wholly on having someone assigned to librarianship who could see its vast potential usefulness, and be willing to give time and energy to this major task. This person should, if possible, screen the bulk of the periodicals, pamphlets, and books coming to the Library, and call attention to books and articles of special interest. This would render a great service to nationals and missionaries alike.

While essential literature should be sent to the missionaries, great care should be taken to avoid flooding

weary people with a mass of material it is not possible for them to read, thereby making them feel frustrated. *The Christian News Letter* and *Christianity and Crisis* are helpful to those who want to know big and worthwhile happenings but have little time for extensive reading. As has been indicated in the foregoing, there should be new material constantly flowing into the Library. A special shelf could be arranged for the new contributions. If this library is to be a part of a college library, an alcove or small room might be kept specially for it.

There are definite possibilities in the properly managed Area Library, especially if it be placed in a home where there are other books as well, and where periodicals can be shared. Groups who have tested out other methods aver that the most effective way to share periodicals is to display them in a central place where readers can use them freely, but may not carry them away.

A Quiet Browsing Room, with good lighting and comfortable seats, in one of the residences, would be a great boon, and would be appreciated by not a few of the national colleagues as well. Such a room requires attention, however, and should be protected from abuse.

Acquaintance With Other Libraries. In addition to such a local library, with its browsing room, missionaries should, however, have access from time to time to more extensive library privileges. For those in or near large cities, or on college campuses, this is not a serious problem. It would be well to be aware of all the sources of lending available in one's area. In some cities, there are large libraries. In Peking, for example, there is the Metropolitan Library, with its records of milleniums of culture; the Political Science Library, The Library of the College of Chinese Studies; The Library of Yenching University; The Peking Union Medical College Library; and others.

Planned Visits To Libraries: Those living away from favorable facilities, should budget their time in such a way as to include semi-annual or more frequent visits to good libraries where they can work on the problems for which there is no special facility for investigating at home. A previous study of periodicals, book reviews, and possibly some correspondence with the librarian would make the visits to the library more rewarding, as it takes a stranger a long time to find out what he wants. It might be possible to have in the Language School Libraries of all the countries, special places for working missionaries, to find material they need to consult, yet cannot afford to own.

Borrowing Books From American Libraries: Princeton Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, and some others send books from their Alumni Lending Library to Seminary graduates in any part of the world, allowing sufficient time and paying postage one way. This provides a wide range of books especially along theological lines. Persons in South America and other not too remote areas from the U.S.A. should write to The Foreign Missions Library, 156 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y. as to the possibility of having books sent to them.

Book Stores: In many parts of the world, in big cities especially, there are excellent English book-stores; e.g. Tokyo, Peking, Shanghai, Seoul, Calcutta, Bombay; and in many cities in Africa and South America. It is a treat to go into such a store, to see the amazing number and kinds of new books, which are attractive at least to someone. Sinclair Lewis says that everyone should have one's own book-store just as one has one's own doctor and dentist. Literature should have a more important place in the Mission Budget. It is comparable to "feed" in a dairy. Vision, conviction, and encouragement from the Board, with an effective plan of procedure, will help bring about the improvement needed in this matter. Report pp 60-65.

In Conclusion: The great bulk of literature now sent from the Board to missionaries on the fields is concerned with the technique of mission work, and not with keeping the missionary informed about the world situation, or current ideas, or about sources of specific information on subjects of special interest to him in his work. Through correspondence with many missionaries, we have learned that a great many of them read very little. The majority spend much of their reading time on devotional (religious) and recreational books, giving little attention to professional, economic, or cultural topics. This has resulted in restricting the influence of our missionary body. It would seem that in recent decades, there has been less emphasis upon intellectual and scholastic attainments. However that

may be, the Missionary Movement is now confronted with the biggest opportunity in its history, and finds itself without a sufficient number of those capable of creative thinking to make the maximum impact upon a pagan or secular world.

It is with the development of a group of thinkers that the suggestions in this study are concerned. For the great body of devoted workers who feel that it is a sin to read except in preparation for routine duties or for recreation, much can be done in the way of suggesting bibliographies, the formation of reading habits, and the planning of circulating libraries: but a strong effort should be made to equip, sustain, and develop Christian leaders who will be able to interpret to people of all countries what they know, in terms that are as comprehensible to the non-Christian as to the Christian.

In China, there are many trades and guilds. The members of each have their own "hang hua" or vocabulary, to express the ideas they need to interchange. An outsider cannot comprehend the meaning of the "hang hua" unless he has some clue. In too many cases, religious workers have unconsciously built up just such "hang hua" that shuts out a large percentage of their audience from full comprehension of the Gospel message. The supreme responsibility of the missionary is to make Jesus Christ known. Advances in thought come when Truth is phrased afresh, and when it is stripped of obsolete or provincial accretions. If we are afraid of this, let us have our censors, and march far in the rear of those who influence their generation. It is dangerous to develop thinkers, Pauls, who will sometimes have to differ with Peter, or argue with Apollos, but it is the only way to root the Christian Church in new soil. Great knowledge is just as likely to make a man humble as proud. The field of human knowledge is so vast that only the fool can be proud of his mastery of a part of it. Sound scholarship, scientific accuracy, patient investigation, and dedication of all of one's talents to Christ, can prepare a basis for creative thought.

REFERENCE TO MATERIAL IN REPORT, NOT INCLUDED IN CONDENSATION OF IT.

In the complete report, there will be found, material on the following topics: Resume of Questionnaire. pp 2-15; What Our Board and Some Other Boards Are Doing. pp 43-56; The Cultural Secretary; Office and

Technique. pp 56-60; Audio-Visual Education. pp 68-70; Broadcasting. p 71; Micro-Films. pp 73-78; Some Available Sources of Information. pp 73-78.